

TO CAUCUS TO-NIGHT.
DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS TO NOMINATE OFFICERS FOR THE TWO HOUSES.

The General Assembly to convene at noon to-morrow. Many Members and Plenty of Candidates Here.

The General Assembly of Virginia will convene in biennial session to-morrow at noon.

The Senate will be called to order by its president, Lieutenant Governor John E. Harrison, and the House of Delegates by its speaker, Colonel John Biggs.

Both branches will be opened with prayer, after which they will proceed to elect officers, clerks, sergeants-at-arms, and doorkeepers.

As soon as the two houses are organized and ready for business they will appoint a committee to wait on the Governor and advise him of the action of the Legislature.

It is expected that the two houses will adjourn at 12:30 p.m. to-morrow.

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OUR BALLOT SYSTEM.
CONFERENCES LAST NIGHT TO CONSIDER NEEDED CHANGES IN THE LAW.

The Subject Fully Discussed and a Committee Ordered to Prepare a Suitable Bill.

The necessity for some alterations in the election laws is apparent to all.

Whether they shall introduce a radical change or merely amend the existing system is a question.

Some people favor one plan, some another, and as the first step in the way of getting at the best opinion a conference was held in the rooms of the Powhatan Club last night.

After a long session held in response to an invitation sent out by President Belvin, and after a long session, the members of the conference, who were present, representing all sections of the State.

Mr. Belvin called the assembly to order and the conference proceeded to consider the subject of the election laws.

Major Bentley, the young colored man who while at the Mayor's factory on 28th street, was arrested for stealing a watch, was present.

After a full discussion of the subject it was resolved that changes in the laws were necessary, but the conference did not reach any definite conclusion.

The conference adjourned until next week, when it will meet again to consider the subject.

At a meeting of the Richmond Board of Police Commissioners, held last night, the subject of the election laws was discussed.

The board of police commissioners, who were present, representing all sections of the State.

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PROPOSITION TO INCREASE CITY ENGINEER CUTHWASH'S SALARY.
FROM \$3,000 TO \$5,000.

Defeat of the Pop-Cracker Petition—More Money for the City Hall—Reformatory Resolution Adopted.

The pop of the fire-cracker will be heard as usual on Christmas-day.

It was 11:15 o'clock last night before the petition from the Underwriters' Association (in which they asked that an ordinance be adopted to restrain the use of fireworks on Christmas-day) was presented at the meeting of the Common Council.

The paper was handed in by Mr. Steel, who took occasion to say that he did so "by request" and was not in favor of what was requested.

Mr. Campbell (Mr. Christian in the chair) said he supposed every member of the Council had read the petition as published, and he was in favor of it.

Mr. Glover expressed a desire to hear the petition read, and the clerk began the reading.

Mr. Glover soon said he had heard enough of the petition to feel that it was not worth the time of the Council.

The Council then turned to the subject of the proposed increase of the salary of the City Engineer.

Mr. Curtis called up the resolution recommending the increase of the salary of the City Engineer from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

Mr. Curtis said this recommendation was made because the City Engineer is one of the most efficient officers of any city in the country.

Mr. Bowen moved that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee.

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THE RAILROAD GIVE TIME TO PREPARE A NEW TARIFF OF RATES.

Messrs. Campbell and Taylor, of the Committee from the Board of Public Utilities, reported on the subject of the proposed new tariff of rates.

The committee recommended that the Board of Public Utilities be authorized to prepare a new tariff of rates.

The Board of Public Utilities, who were present, representing all sections of the State.

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GOVERNOR LEE'S LETTER.
The bold and manly letter written by Governor Lee to the Maryland Legislature.

The Governor's letter to the Maryland Legislature, in which he expressed his views on the proposed new tariff of rates.

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